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THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

DEAF AND DUMB,

FOR 1850.

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PHILADELPHIA:

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1851.



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# REPORT.

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To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
and to the Contributors to the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

Most cordially do the Directors congratulate the friends of this noble Institution, that the enlightened benevolence of the Legislature has enabled the Board to receive an increased number of the indigent deaf mutes of the State, of a suitable age, who have applied for admission. These interesting children owe a debt of lasting gratitude to the fostering care of the Commonwealth, which has afforded them the means of increased happiness and enlarged usefulness.

It is also a source of much gratification to the Directors to announce that Mrs. Eliza Kohne has generously paid the legacy of twenty thousand dollars, (less the collateral inheritance tax) bequeathed to the Institution by her late philanthropic husband, Frederick Kohne, Esq.

It is also due to the memory of the late Churchill Houston, to state that his liberal legacy of two thousand five hundred dollars has been paid; that of one hundred dollars, by the late John Bohlen, Esq., has also been received.

To their liberal and public-spirited fellow citizen, Thomas P. Cope, Esq., the Board tender their cordial thanks for his donation of twenty-eight shares of the Stock of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.

The Directors also acknowledge, with great satisfaction, a generous donation of five hundred dollars of the Stock of the Harrisburg and Mount Joy Rail Road Company, from Richard Ronaldson, Esq.

Thus encouraged, the Directors find new inducements to use every effort to render this Asylum as extensively and permanently useful as possible, and faithfully to discharge the high trust confided to them.

The increased number of inmates has rendered the employment of additional aid necessary; and the Board have determined to add two assistant matrons to the corps of officers.

In order to render the labors of the Board more efficient, some change has been made in the arrangement of the Committees.

Our valued Principle continues to discharge his various duties with unabated zeal, and is ably sustained by his assistants and our excellent Matron.

The pupils are divided into seven classes, of about nineteen each. Proper time is allowed for study and recreation. Care is taken that they should have suitable exercise in the open air. Some of the male pupils are engaged in the Shoemaker's or Tailor's Shop. There is an earnest desire to implant in them those principles of religion and morality, which will safely guide them through life.

To cultivate the understanding, to invigorate the constitution, and to train up the child in the way he should go, is the leading object of the Institution; and the best efforts of the Officers and Directors have been directed to accomplish this great end, and to attain it, may the Divine assistance be given.

The pupils have, in general, enjoyed excellent health; but the Board have to regret the deaths of three of them. Margaret Banks, of Bucks county, died on the 5th of July. She was in feeble health when admitted, and gradually fell a victim to consumption, after a residence of four years. James F. Furgeson,

of Clarion county, aged 18 years, died of tuberculous decline, on the 21st of July. He had been an inmate of the Asylum about three years. The last case was that of Levina Thape, of Northumberland county. She died of dysentery, on the 29th of July. She was about sixteen years of age.

The Board have great satisfaction in expressing their sense of the skill and assiduity with which the Physician and the consulting Physicians have rendered their acceptable services.

During the year 1850, forty-four pupils have been admitted, fourteen have left, and three have died.

There remained connected with the Institution, on the 31st ultimo,

|          |           |       |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| Males,   | . . . . . | 72    |
| Females, | . . . . . | 62    |
|          |           | <hr/> |
| Total,   | . . .     | 134   |
|          |           | <hr/> |

*Of the whole number of pupils belonging to the Institution,*

|    |                  |                                      |
|----|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 92 | are supported by | Pennsylvania                         |
| 8  | "                | " New Jersey                         |
| 18 | "                | " Maryland                           |
| 3  | "                | " Delaware                           |
| 13 | "                | " their friends, or the Institution. |

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Total 134

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*Those supported by Pennsylvania, are from the following  
Counties :*

|                       |   |                           |    |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| Allegheny, . . . . .  | 4 | Green, . . . . .          | 1  |
| Armstrong, . . . . .  | 1 | Juniata, . . . . .        | 1  |
| Beaver, . . . . .     | 1 | Lancaster, . . . . .      | 3  |
| Berks, . . . . .      | 4 | Lebanon, . . . . .        | 1  |
| Bradford, . . . . .   | 2 | Lehigh, . . . . .         | 5  |
| Bucks, . . . . .      | 2 | Luzerne, . . . . .        | 1  |
| Butler, . . . . .     | 1 | Lycoming, . . . . .       | 1  |
| Cambria, . . . . .    | 1 | Mercer, . . . . .         | 1  |
| Carbon, . . . . .     | 1 | Montgomery, . . . . .     | 3  |
| Chester, . . . . .    | 2 | Northumberland, . . . . . | 1  |
| Clarion, . . . . .    | 2 | Perry, . . . . .          | 1  |
| Clearfield, . . . . . | 1 | Philadelphia, . . . . .   | 23 |
| Clinton, . . . . .    | 1 | Schuylkill, . . . . .     | 2  |
| Crawford, . . . . .   | 1 | Somerset, . . . . .       | 3  |
| Cumberland, . . . . . | 1 | Sullivan, . . . . .       | 2  |
| Dauphin, . . . . .    | 4 | Venango, . . . . .        | 1  |
| Delaware, . . . . .   | 1 | Westmoreland, . . . . .   | 3  |
| Erie, . . . . .       | 1 | York, . . . . .           | 7  |
| Fayette, . . . . .    | 1 |                           | —  |
|                       |   | Total, . . .              | 92 |

*Those supported by New Jersey, are from the following  
Counties :*

|                       |   |                      |   |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Burlington, . . . . . | 3 | Hunterdon, . . . . . | 1 |
| Cape May, . . . . .   | 2 | Monmouth, . . . . .  | 1 |
| Gloucester, . . . . . | 1 |                      | — |
|                       |   | Total, . . .         | 8 |

*Those supported by Maryland are from the following Counties:*

|                         |   |                        |           |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------|
| Alleghany, . . . . .    | 2 | Harford, . . . . .     | 1         |
| Baltimore County, . . . | 1 | Prince George, . . . . | 1         |
| Baltimore City, . . . . | 6 | Queen Ann, . . . . .   | 1         |
| Cecil, . . . . .        | 1 | Somerset, . . . . .    | 1         |
| Dorchester, . . . . .   | 1 | Worcester, . . . . .   | 1         |
| Frederick, . . . . .    | 2 |                        | —         |
|                         |   |                        | Total, 18 |

*Those supported by Delaware are from the following Counties:*

|                       |   |                 |          |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| New Castle, . . . . . | 1 | Kent, . . . . . | 2        |
|                       |   |                 | —        |
|                       |   |                 | Total, 3 |

*Those supported by their friends, or the Institution, are from*

|                       |   |                         |           |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------|
| Maryland, . . . . .   | 4 | Pennsylvania, . . . . . | 6         |
| New Jersey, . . . . . | 2 | Virginia, . . . . .     | 1         |
|                       |   |                         | —         |
|                       |   |                         | Total, 13 |

Of the forty-four pupils admitted during the year 1850,

29 were born deaf.

1 lost hearing by disease at 8 years of age.

1 “ “ measles, at 4 “ “

1 “ “ whooping cough at 2 years old.

1 “ “ inflammation of ears at 6 months.

1 “ “ typhus fever at 1 year and 6 months.

1 “ “ scarlet fever between 4 and 5 years.

1 “ “ “ “ 4 and 5 months.

1 “ “ “ “ 3 and 10 months.

1 “ “ “ at 5 years old.

1 “ “ “ 1 year and 8 months.

|   |                                               |
|---|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | lost hearing by scarlet fever at 5 years old. |
| 1 | " " " 3 years and 6 months.                   |
| 1 | " " " 7 years old.                            |
| 1 | " " " 1 year old.                             |
| 1 | " " " 8 years old.                            |

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The Treasurer's account exhibits the receipts and expenditures of the year just closed.

The expenses of the next year will be increased in consequence of repairs, now necessary to the buildings. For these no additional call will be made on the treasury of the State.

The Board rely with confidence that the present appropriation, so necessary to the welfare and happiness of the indigent deaf mute, will be continued.

To their fellow-citizens at large, the Directors appeal for aid in support of a charity unsurpassed by any in the country in its claims on the beneficent, and the success of which, it is hoped, all will gladly promote. Recognizing with fervent gratitude the care and blessing of God, in times past, and invoking a continuance of His favor on the Institution, the Directors now surrender their trust to the Contributors.

All which is respectfully submitted,  
By order of the Board of Directors.

PHILIP F. MAYER, *President*.

Attested—JAMES J. BARCLAY, *Secretary*.

*Philadelphia, January 1, 1851.*

# FOR RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM JANUARY 1, TO DECEMBER 31, 1850.

Dr. *The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, in Account with JOHN BACON, Treasurer.* Cr.

| 1850.                                  |           | 1851.                                  |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Dec. 31,                               | Dolls. C. | Jan'y 1, 1851.                         | Dolls. C. |
| To Cash paid to this date, viz. :—     |           | By Balance due the Institution, -      | -         |
| Loans, temporarily, -                  | 14061 59  | By Cash received to this date, viz. :— | -         |
| Family Expenses, -                     | 5478 25   | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, -        | 8267 85   |
| Salaries, -                            | 6693 22   | tuition, &c., of indigent Pupils, -    | 2332 50   |
| Incidentals, -                         | 226 63    | State of Maryland, Do -                | 1138 53   |
| Interest, -                            | 271 50    | State of New Jersey, Do -              | 911 83    |
| Cordwaining and Tailoring, -           | 628 38    | State of Delaware, Do -                | 2892 34   |
| Mortgage Loan, on account, -           | 200 00    | Private Pupils, -                      | 4000 00   |
| House Furniture, -                     | 316 76    | Loans, repaid, -                       | 155 69    |
| Burial Lots, in La Fayette Cemetery, - | 151 75    | Subscriptions, -                       | 963 63    |
| Repairs, -                             | 125 88    | Interest, on Loans, -                  | 121 67    |
| Private Pupils, advanced, -            | 79 96     | Cordwaining and Tailoring, -           | 2575 00   |
|                                        | 28233 90  | Legacies, -                            | -         |
|                                        |           |                                        | 23359 01  |
| Balance due the Institution, -         | -         |                                        | 28122 17  |
|                                        | 188 27    |                                        | 188 27    |

E. E. *Philadelphia, January 1, 1851.*

JOHN BACON, *Treasurer.*

*Philadelphia, January 16, 1851.* [Examined and Approved.]

A. SYMINGTON,  
EDWARD YARNALL,  
*Committee of Accounts.*

# DEAF AND DUMB ALPHABET.

a a



b b



c c



d d



e e



f f



g g



h h



i i



j j



k k



l l



m m



n n



o o



p p



q q



r r



s s



t t



u u



v v



w w



x x



y y



z z



& g



# APPENDIX.



## TERMS OF ADMISSION.

By a Rule of the Institution, deaf and dumb children are not received under ten years of age.

The annual charge is one hundred and sixty dollars. For which sum every thing necessary is provided, including the usual clothing of the Institution, boarding, lodging, washing, tuition, stationery and medical attendance; or one hundred and thirty dollars per annum, in case the clothing is furnished by the parents or friends of the pupil.

No deduction is made for vacation.

It is very desirable that the deaf and dumb should be taught to form letters with a pen or pencil, and if possible, to write the names of common objects, before they are sent to the Institution.

This can be done without much difficulty, and will save much valuable time.

The most advantageous time for the admission of pupils is the first of October in each year, and punctuality in this particular is important, as new classes are formed at this period.

Pupils will, however, be received at other times of the year, if circumstances prevent their being placed in the Institution by the first of October.

Payments are expected to be made in advance every six months.

## STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Applicants for the bounty of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must be between the ages of ten and twenty years ; and before they can be admitted, satisfactory evidence must be furnished from respectable persons of their neighborhood, of the pecuniary inability of the parents, and of the good natural intellect of the child ; and its freedom from any constitutional malady that might incapacitate it for instruction.

On application to the Principal of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Philadelphia, by letter or otherwise, a paper with printed questions and blank spaces for answers, will be forwarded. After the paper has been filled out, it must be returned to the Institution. The applicant will soon after be informed of the result of the application.

The number of pupils on the State Fund is limited ; new pupils can only be admitted when vacancies occur. The term allowed is six years.

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Applications for the bounty of the State of New Jersey, must be made to the Governor, "accompanied by a certificate of any two respectable individuals, attested before a magistrate, to the age, circumstances and capacity of the deaf mute, in whose behalf the application is made." The term allowed is six years.

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## STATE OF DELAWARE.

Applications for the bounty of the State of Delaware, must be made to the Associate Judges of the State. The term allowed is six years.

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## STATE OF MARYLAND.

Applications for the bounty of the State of Maryland, must be made to the Levy Courts, or Commissioners of the several counties, or to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. The term allowed is seven years.

Deaf mutes to be supported by their friends, also those supported by the States of New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware, should be accompanied by written answers to the following questions :

What is the name of the child ? (mention the whole of its name.)

What is the age of the child ? (mention the year, month, day, and place of birth.)

What are the names of the parents, and where do they reside ? (mention the County and nearest Post Office.)

What are the names of the brothers and sisters of the child ?

Are any of them Deaf and Dumb ?

Are any of the connections of the family Deaf and Dumb, or is it known that there have been any Deaf and Dumb, either on the father's or mother's side in the line of their ancestors ?

Has the child had the small-pox, or been vaccinated ?

Has it had the scarlet fever, measles, or whooping cough ?

Was it born deaf, or did it lose its hearing by sickness or disease ? If so, how, and at what age ?

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, BEQUESTS.

|                        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|
| Annual Subscription, - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$ 2 00 |
| Life Subscription, -   | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 00   |

Received by any member of the Board of Directors.

Donations to the Library, of Books, Maps, Pictures, &c., and to the Cabinet of Apparatus, Specimens, Curiosities of Nature and Art, will be received at the Institution.

#### FORM OF A DEVISE OR BEQUEST.

I give, devise and bequeath to "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," &c.

To answer enquiries frequently made, the following statistical particulars respecting the history and condition of the Institution are submitted.

The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb was organized, and held its first meeting in April, 1820. President, the Right Rev. William White, D. D.

In November following, a house was rented in Market street, above Broad, and eighteen pupils assembled in it for instruction.

The Institution was supported by donations, and the contributions of annual subscribers and of life-members.

An Act of incorporation was passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, in February, 1821. By this Act the Commonwealth allowed one hundred and sixty dollars a piece per annum for the education and support of indigent pupils of the State. The number was not to exceed fifty, and the term of each not to extend beyond three years. The number has since been increased, and the term extended by several successive enactments. The number under the present appropriation being about ninety-three, and the term allowed six years.

In September, 1821, the Institution was removed to the corner of Market and Eleventh streets.

In June, 1824, a site was purchased at the corner of Broad and Pine streets, and preparations made for erecting a large building.

It was completed, and the Institution removed to it in November, 1825.

In 1828, an additional lot in the rear was procured, and a school house erected on it.

In 1839 the buildings were extended, and a story added to the school house. The whole establishment was then capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty pupils.

A chaste and simple Doric front of cut stone, with portico and pillars, extends ninety-six feet on Broad street. The buildings, including the school house, run back two hundred and thirty-five feet, and enclose an open space laid out as a flower garden.

There are two spacious yards, one for the girls and one for the boys, shaded by trees, and furnishing ample space for exercise in the open air.

The school building contains ten school rooms. Each one provided with appropriate furniture, as slates, tables, closets, &c., when needed. From twelve to twenty pupils usually constitute a class.

At present there are seven classes, each under the care of an instructor.

Two of the teachers are mutes. These classes are formed in October, and it is important that all new pupils should be here at that time, that the classes may be properly formed.

Contiguous to the school rooms is a Cabinet of apparatus, models, specimens, &c., to assist the teachers in presenting clear ideas on the various subjects, admitting of ocular illustration.

The centre building contains a lecture room, capable of seating two hundred persons. It has also facilities for making experiments, and presenting diagrams, maps, sketches, &c. In this room the pupils are assembled twice every day, sometimes in the evenings for lectures, and on the Sabbath for religious instruction.

Underneath this apartment is the dining room, in which the pupils assemble through opposite doors, without interfering with each other. In the upper stories are the infirmaries, and also two dormitories.

The wings contain the principal sleeping rooms, the sitting rooms, the shops, the kitchen, bake house, laundry, cellars, &c.

Attached to these are the bath houses, washing rooms, and other conveniences, accessible at all times without exposure to the weather.

The workshops give employment to the boys two or three hours daily.

The girls are taught plain sewing and dressmaking, and are employed in housewifery. Habits of industry are thus forming, and the pupils are preparing for the duties and practical business of life. The hours of the day are apportioned to study, work, exercise and amusement.

The establishment is lighted with gas, and abundantly supplied with the Schuylkill water.

During the thirty years of the existence of the Institution, there has been expended for the grounds, buildings, appurtenances, &c., about ninety-five thousand dollars.

The pupils are under the constant supervision of the Principal, the Instructors, the Matron, or the Steward. The indisposed have the prompt and devoted services of the attentive and skilful Physician, and

in critical cases, the valuable advice of the distinguished consulting Physicians of the Institution. Thus, in sickness and in health, the improvement, comfort, and happiness of the pupils, are assiduously promoted.

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#### DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHING DEAF MUTES AT HOME.

It is very important to the deaf mute, that his parents and friends should cultivate the language of signs, and encourage him in the use of them as early as possible.

Let them observe the child, and imitate the signs he makes. When he is pleased with anything, invent a sign for the thing, and repeat that sign many times afterwards. Distinguish different persons by signs, suggested by a scar, mole, beard, or any little peculiarity which the person may possess.

Imitate the actions of riding, sewing, eating, mowing, cutting, throwing, sowing, &c.

For 'good,' kiss the hand. For 'bad,' bring the hand to the lips, turn the palm down and throw it from you. For 'glad,' pat the heart rapidly, with a cheerful expression of countenance. For 'sorry,' rub the clenched hand on the heart, with a sad expression of countenance.

For 'black,' draw the end of the forefinger along the eyebrow. For 'red,' touch the lips with the forefinger. For 'love,' cross the hands and press them on the heart. For 'hate,' push both hands, the palms out, from the heart, as if repelling something from the left side. For 'lie,' move the forefinger across the mouth horizontally. For 'true,' place the forefinger perpendicularly across the lips and thrust it forwards.

These are a very few examples, merely as suggestive hints.

The child can be taught to spell on the fingers at a very early age.

Any person can take an object, as a hat; pick out the letters h-a-t from the Deaf and Dumb alphabet, and learn to place the fingers in the true position for each letter. No matter how slowly it is done. Let the child imitate until he can make the letters of the word in order without assistance, at the same time show the object. Do this very often, until the child has learned to spell the word when the hat is presented to it, or to go and bring the hat when the word is spelled to it.

Then take another object, as pin, go through the same process until it is thoroughly learned by frequent repetition every day. So with arm, cat, dog, chair, &c. The following ten short words, the names of common objects, contain every letter of the alphabet, viz: adz, fan, map, cow, box, jar, sky, hat, quill, glove.

After the power of spelling the names of many common objects has been acquired, the names of familiar persons may be taught.

In a similar way, the child may be taught to write the names of things on a slate quite early. Let him imitate the form of the letters for one word, as hat, and repeat it many times until he can write it as readily as he can spell it on the fingers. Take another word, and go over the same process. Point to each letter, and require the child to make the sign for the letter on the fingers. By frequent repetition, the ability to write the names of many things, and to form all the letters of the alphabet, will be acquired. It is best to make the child form the letters as round as possible, and not to take off the pencil until the word is completed. The habit, thus early begun, will save a great deal of time, and enable the writer to accomplish more in a given time, and with more ease than can possibly be done on any other principle. If it is desired to go further, write the name of the child, as John sees a chair—John sees a table. Let him copy the sentence, explaining by signs the word sees, and pointing to the chair, and also to the child. Then let him write John sees — and let him select another object to fill up the blank ; and finally let him cover his slate with sentences thus formed. Help him to objects out of the house as well as in. Encourage him to write as many such sentences as he can. All this may be the work of years, but the advantage to the child cannot be estimated. A little attention thus bestowed, every day, will accomplish all this, and probably much more.

# OFFICERS FOR 1851.

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## *President.*

REV. PHILIP F. MAYER, D. D.

## *Vice Presidents.*

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| N. CHAPMAN, M. D.,   | SAMUEL R. WOOD,  |
| C. C. BIDDLE, LL.D., | ROBERT M. LEWIS. |

*Treasurer*—JOHN BACON.

*Secretary*—JAMES J. BARCLAY.

## *Directors.*

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Franklin Bache, M. D.,       | Thomas H. White,              |
| Joseph R. Ingersoll, LL. D., | Mordecai L. Dawson,,          |
| Joseph G. Nancrede, M. D.,   | John Farnum,                  |
| George G. Leiper,            | Thomas F. Wharton,            |
| Henry J. Williams,           | John Cadwalader,              |
| Lawrence Lewis,              | Edward Coles,                 |
| Abraham Miller,              | Thomas P. Cope,               |
| George W. Toland,            | Alexander Synnington,         |
| William M. Meredith,         | William Shippen, M. D.,       |
| Benjamin W. Richards,        | William H. Dillingham,        |
| Jacob Gratz,                 | Henry D. Gilpin,              |
| Edward Yarnall,              | Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, D. D. |

## *Ladies' Committee.*

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Hannah Paleské, | Mrs. Robert M. Lewis, |
| Hannah Henry,        | Caroline Wood,        |
| Hannah Jones,        | Elizabeth H. Farnum,  |
| Susan D. Brown,      | Miss Hannah Parke,    |
| Ann Morris,          | Margaret Latimer,     |
| Elizabeth Dawson,    | Sarah Wistar.         |

*Physician*—John B. Biddle, M. D.

## *Consulting Physicicians.*

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| George B. Wood, M. D.,  | Joseph Pancoast, M. D., |
| Thomas D. Mütter, M. D. |                         |

*Principal*—A. B. HUTTON, A. M.

## *Instructors.*

|                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Robert T. Evans, Jr.,        | Benjamin D. Pettengill,  |
| Benjamin B. M'Kinley, A. M., | Joseph O. Pyatt,         |
| Joshua Foster,               | William M'Kinley, A. M., |
|                              | Joseph Mount.            |

*Matron*—HANNAH ELFRETH.

*Steward and Superintendent of Workshop*—Thomas K. Middleton.

*Superintendent of the Tailor's Shop*—David I. Stevenson.



